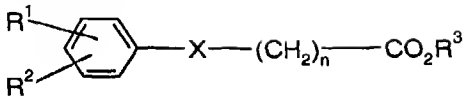
WE CLAIM:

1. A compound of formula I:



I;

wherein

R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, OH, cyano, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, CF_3, halo or $NR^4R^{4'}$;

R^3 is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^4 is H, COR^5, SO_2R^6, or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

$R^{4'}$ is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^5 is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^6 is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

X is a 5 membered aromatic heterocycle that is optionally substituted with C1-C4 alkyl; wherein said heterocycle contains at least two or three heteroatoms selected from N, S and O wherein at least one heteroatom must be N and wherein said heterocycle may not be 1,3,4-oxadiazole;

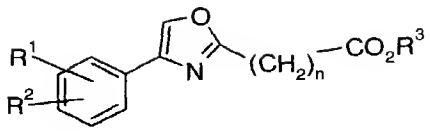
n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7;

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, OH, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, CF_3, halo or $NR^4R^{4'}$ and wherein X is not substituted with C_1-C_4 alkyl.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^3 is H.

4. The compound of any one of claims 1-3 of the formula:



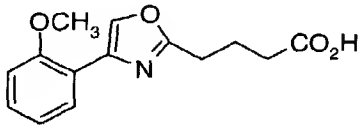
;

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

5. The compound of claim any one of claims 1-4 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl) or OH, R^3 is H and n is 2, 3, 4 or 5, or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

6. The compound of any one of claims 1-4 wherein: R^1 is selected from OH or NH_2 and is at the ortho-position relative to heterocycle X; R^2 is selected from OCH_3 and H and is at the para-position relative to heterocycle X; and R^3 is H.

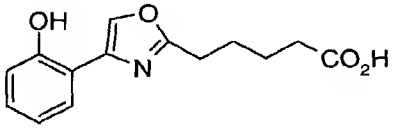
7. A compound which is:



;

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

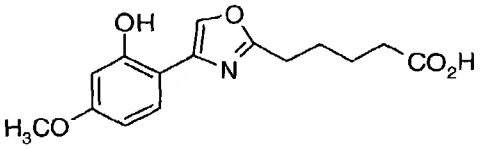
8. A compound which is:



;

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

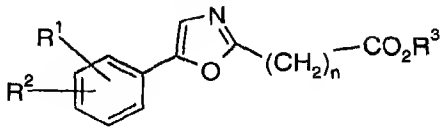
9. A compound which is:



;

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

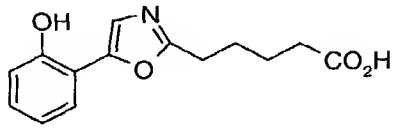
10. The compound of any one of claims 1-3 of the formula:



or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

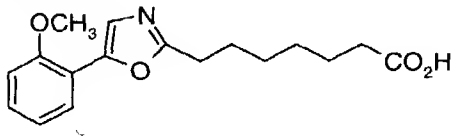
11. The compound of claim 10 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, $O(C_1\text{-}C_4$ alkyl) or OH, R^3 is H and n is 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

12. A compound which is



or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

13. A compound which is



or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) a compound of any one of claims 3, 5-9 or 11-13 or a pharmaceutical salt thereof; and

b) a GLP-1 compound.

15. The composition of claim 14 wherein the GLP-1 compound is Val^{8}-Glu^{22}-GLP-1(7-37)OH.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) a compound of any one of claims 3, 5-9 or 11-13 or a pharmaceutical salt thereof; and

b) an MC4 agonist peptide.

17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the MC4 agonist peptide is selected from the group consisting of:

Ac-Arg-cyclo[Cys-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Cys]-NH_2;

Ac-cyclo[hCys-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Cys]-NH_2;

Ac-cyclo[hCys-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-penicillamine]-NH_2; and

N-cyclohexanecarbonyl-cyclo[hCys-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-penicillamine]-NH_2.